

Youth and Family Ministry – Report to Parish Council – May 2017

.... What has been going on & what is coming up?

Sunday morning ministry with the children continues. We have 20 kids that we see regularly, and about 6 on any given Sunday. Kids come with grandparents, parents, and friends. Whether they come every Sunday or every once in a while we try to help them belong and feel welcome! Our program/curriculum is a combination of “seasons of the spirit” and “holy moly” ... with a lot of flexible creativity tossed in by Darlene Lee and myself. During the summer, our program will be in the church and will focus on creating a creation mural

HD (middle school) and EPIC (high school) have been combined often ... We have cooked for the youth shelter and sorted for the food bank. There are 7 youth who are connected with St. John’s through family, and another 7 who come through other connections. Regular gatherings will continue through the summer

Sharon Hallsor (from St. Luke’s) and I have been planning the Summer Camp Out and looking at ways to do more leadership development with the older youth. We are also planning a way to combine confirmation prep with other youth ministry – perhaps a 10 month program like re:form. There is a slim possibility that there will be confirmations next month.

CLAY kids and some others had a retreat during the spring break and some are gathering in Uclulet this weekend. There is excitement about CLAY 2018 in Thunder Bay. We will start preparations and fundraising in September.

Young Adults have been gathering monthly! They have met at the Fernwood Inn, Spaghetti Factory, and Board Game Café. This has been a great initiative by Susanna Peterson to keep folks connected. With a couple of youth graduating from high school this year, hopefully they will stay connected too!

I have had some conversations with Bishop Logan and others about how to link youth and young families into the diocesan vision, specifically around the year of reconciliation and upcoming diocesan retreats and synod. There are no specific plans yet.

This year, a significant amount of time has been spent in pastoral care with a few families. As a result, a group of women are going to begin gathering for mutual support, mindfulness and spiritual practice.

I am also looking at ways to get families together. We will begin regular picnics now that the weather is getting nicer. This will be a chance to share food, do an outdoor activity and create liturgy together. Last year we had regular beach nights, and will likely do that too.

Ideas or Questions? ruthmacintosh42@gmail.com 250-858-5567